

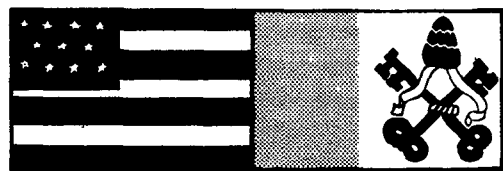
Archbishop Fulton Sheen's works find fans in Africa

By Father Paul Cuddy
Courier columnist

When Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen was bishop of Rochester, he was given a hard time. In retrospect, we acknowledge that many of his questioned judgments proved to be correct.

I first met him at the funeral of Monsignor William Byrne in Ithaca. The bishop was new to the diocese. At the clergy luncheon after the burial, I sat next to Father Don Cleary, chaplain of Cornell University. Sitting next to Father Cleary was Archbishop Sheen, who — as was his custom — dominated the conversation.

Father Cleary made some remark about diocesan finances. With a sweeping reply Archbishop Sheen exclaimed: "Peanuts! I've been handling millions for years with the Propagation of the Faith." Although it was typical of his responses to many delicate situations, the sweeping reply annoyed



ON THE RIGHT SIDE

me. Perhaps because of his very pervasiveness, we did not appreciate his greatness.

Archbishop Sheen's secretary was Father Michael Hogan — the brother of Bishop Joseph Hogan — whose humor and valiant service gave the bishop great solace. I wish Father Hogan would write "Memories of Archbishop Sheen." It would be kind and inspiring, and very funny. Father Hogan has the most spontaneous humor of any person I know, and he could show the complex humanity of a

much-discussed world figure. Sometimes, in times of stress, the archbishop would say: "Father Hogan, let's go visit Father McFarland in Macedon." Father McFarland was another priest known for his humor. Archbishop Sheen never used the first name of his priests, and none of his priests used his first name either.

Archbishop Sheen's great work was not in administrative duties, but in his lecturing, preaching, publishing and instruction of many famous people — including Clare Booth Luce. His many books are inspiring. They include the classic *Life of Christ* and *Vessels of Clay*, a moving book on the priesthood.

His years on the TV are memorable for millions of older Americans. His mellifluous voice, his chiselled diction, his penetrating eyes and his sense of the dramatic all combined to make his messages intelligible, believable and inspirational.

In the 1970s, I discovered through a monk at the Trappist monastery in Piffard, near Geneseo, the first album of Sheen conferences given at Gary, Indiana. They were produced and distributed in an attractive blue album, and were so successful that he produced many subsequent conferences on audio cassettes. I have sold and donated more than 52,000 Sheen cassettes, and continue in this apostolate.

A month ago this column discussed the fact and nature of the devil. I recommended Sheen's cassette, "The Devil," which costs \$3 plus \$1 for handling charges. Orders came from 31 villages and cities from as far away as Virginia and Florida. And many inquired about the 20 other Sheen tapes.

On Sept. 20, a relevant letter came from Father William Amann, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, who recently returned from Africa. The letter reads: "In the course of my recent sabbatical travels in Africa, I met several Sheen-o-philes — folks enamored of our Archbishop Sheen and his ministries. None are more devoted than Father Charles W. Bunda, Hyalikunga Parish, Box 88, Maswa, Tanzania.

"He is a newly ordained priest and it seems Sheen was part of the seminary studies. His collection so far contains only the cassette, 'Retreat of 1970,' and three books: *Life of Christ*; *The Eternal Galilean*, and *Peace of Soul*. He is anxious to get hold of anything else.

"I am sending my autographed copy of 'Philosophy and Religion' and am asking you, with your generous contacts, to do what you can to supply him with more tapes (audio or video) and books. Perhaps you can elicit for him and his poor parish a 'Sheen sponsor.'

"Thank you for your love of the Church, the Priesthood and Jesus." Any readers who might wish to assist young Father Bunda, please contact Father Amann, 1634 Lake Road, Hamlin, NY, 14464, or myself at 10 Lewis St., Auburn, NY, 13021.

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Week of prayer and fasting aims at toppling evil

By Father Albert Shamon
Courier columnist

Sunday's readings: (R3) Matthew 21:33-43; (R1) Isaiah 5:1-7; (R2) Philipians 4:6-9.

Sunday is the Feast of the Most Holy Rosary. St. Louis de Montfort said that the greatest sacrament is the Most Holy Eucharist and the greatest sacramental is the Most Holy Rosary.

In all her recent apparitions, the Mother of God has begged us to pray the rosary daily, especially as a family.

"The weapon to use against Satan is prayer..." she told Father Stefano Gobbi.

"The prayer of my predilection is the holy rosary ... the Red Dragon will find himself decisively humiliated and defeated when I bind him not by a great chain but by a very frail cord: the holy rosary," she said. "The rosary is powerful, because 'it is a prayer that you say together with me' (10/7/83).

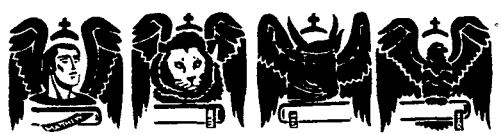
She said to Father Gobbi that in praying the rosary you say at least 50 times, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us ..." She said, "Do you think I am deaf?"

"When you invite me to pray for you, I accede your request and mingle my voice with yours, and I unite my prayer to yours. Consequently it always becomes efficacious, because your heavenly Mother is suppliant omnipotence" (idem).

Aware of this power, the forces for God in this nation are mustering together to offer up a week of prayer and fasting from Oct. 7-13. It is time for all of us to stop fiddling and by our prayers and fasting end abortion.

The people of God marched around Jericho for a week, then the shouts of the people brought the walls tumbling down. The shout of the people of God is the rosary and Eucharistic adoration for seven days, coupled with fasting.

During the week of prayer and fasting, services at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 185 Clark St., Auburn, will include:



A WORD FOR SUNDAY

- Eucharistic adoration all day on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday until the evening Mass at 7:30 p.m. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed all day and night and during Mass each evening at 7:30 p.m. People outside of the parish are welcome to participate.

- We are also called to fast this week, meaning we can eat one full meal, cut down on the other two and consume nothing between meals. Abstain from watching TV Wednesday and Friday.

- Then at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Sunday, Oct. 14, at 3 p.m. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will conduct a Marian Holy Hour for vocations, marriages, families, and the missions.

On May 30, 1862, Don Bosco recounted this vision. He had seen an immense sea on which a great many ships were arranged to

do battle against a larger and taller ship. In this sea, two solid columns appeared a short distance apart. One was surmounted by a statue of the Immaculate Virgin, and at her feet were the words "Help of Christians." The other pillar, which was loftier and sturdier, supported a Host of great size, with the words "Salvation of Believers" written beneath.

On the large ship stood the Roman pontiff, straining every muscle to steer the ship between the two columns. Enemy ships closed in trying to sink the large ship. They bombarded it with everything, including books, pamphlets and cannons. The battle raged furiously. The pope was wounded, but he rose again. A second time he was struck and died.

But another pope took his place so quickly that the enemy became dismayed. The new pope steered his ship safely between the two columns. At this point something unexpected happened. The enemy ships panicked, collided and scuttled each other. The sea cleared. Victory was won.

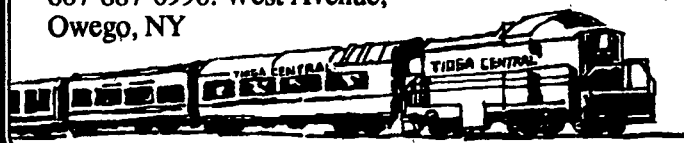
The pillars of victory are Jesus in the Eucharist and true devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The time is Oct. 7-13, 1990.

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